

Terraset PTA Meeting Minutes Tuesday December 5, 2008

The meeting opened at 7:08pm

Members Present: Suzanne White, Scott Logan, Renee Gillanshah (President), Stephanie Randall (Vice President), Liz Falcone (Secretary), Pam Sipher, Traci Waller, Marsha White (Treasurer), Gary Powell.

Apologies: Dianne Rose, Kathy Somer, Ellen Cury, Leslie Sogandares

1. Renee welcomed all present. There was a brief discussion on what constituted a quorum. Liz agreed to check bylaws. The meeting proceeded in recognition that this meeting could be considered a meeting of the Executive for which a majority of the Executive Board is required.
2. Minutes from November 5, 2008 were presented. Suzanne White moved to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded Marsha White. Accepted.
3. There were no matters arising from minutes.
4. *Treasurer's Report* (Marsha White)
 - 4.1. Giftwrap deposit – the bank advised of a discrepancy in amount presented versus amount recorded on deposit slip in PTA's favor by \$1063.
 - 4.2. Payment for online Innisbrook sales still not received.
 - 4.3. Income of \$1399 for Spiritwear has been deposited. No expenses to date.
 - 4.4. Skate Night deposits totaled \$379. Expenses of \$208.34 were recorded. A brief discussion regarding skate night followed. It was agreed that it might be time to consider an alternative winter activity e.g. bowling. This activity was originally a fundraiser but no longer serves that purpose.
 - 4.5. PTA payments to Innisbrook of \$8724.41 represented our major expense this month.
 - 4.6. Another check bounced.
5. *Family Bingo Night Report*

Thanks were expressed to Kathy and all her volunteers, in absentia. The net income for Bingo was \$1367.23 being \$110 for baked goods donations and \$1257 net for Bingo. Thanks also to the Hughes girls (former students of Terraset) who came to help.
6. *Teacher Mini-Grant Application* (Suzanne White)

The PTA received an application for a teacher mini-grant from Rachael Goldman. The application requests \$495 for the production materials for Annie Junior to be performed by the 5th and 6th Grade Chorus in May 2009. The costs cover the purchase of libretto, music books, accompanist's music, and choreography CD. These materials remain the property of Terraset and could be reused. There was general support for the application. Reassurance was sort that other grades would benefit from this funding but the meeting was reminded that this is not a requirement for a mini-grant. However, it was noted that all students will get the opportunity to see the show and

that some students may be able to participate in set building. Traci Waller moved that the application be accepted. Seconded Scott Logan. Unanimously agreed.

7. *Spring Carnival Planning* (Traci Waller)

- 7.1. The Spring Carnival has been set for April 19th. There will be a planning meeting on Wednesday 7th January for all volunteers. This will provide an opportunity to distribute duties, and set up any sub-committees that may be required.
- 7.2. The Earth day theme provides an opportunity to celebrate Terraset and capture the attention of the community. Considering to expand the carnival to include information displays/attractions e.g. planetarium.
- 7.3. Sunday may be deterrent to teachers attending. This needs to be kept in mind when deciding date for 2010.
- 7.4. Discussed possibility of organizing a fun run. It was suggested that the run course could follow the boundary of the school district – approximately 6.5 miles. This would be more than a “fun run” for most, but may attract wider participation. A shorter course could be offered. In addition, a one-mile course for kids could be included. There was great enthusiasm for this idea. Potomac Running Store may be willing to assist with organization. Need to address issues such as insurance, availability of volunteer Course Marshals, fees required to cover expenses, and awards. Funds could be directed to outdoor garden. It was suggested to use the PTA Newsletter to call for someone to organize a fun run.
- 7.5. Carnival committee discussed inviting Reston Association to have Earth Day at Terraset since the new Nature House will be under construction. This would provide an opportunity for a wider community event.
- 7.6. Consistent with the Earth Day theme is promotion of recycling. Mrs. Goldman will have a display of musical instruments made by her students from recycled material.
- 7.7. The question was raised whether some of the Assemblies budget could be used to engage a performing/visual artist that promotes recycling, reusing and renewing as an additional feature for the Carnival.
- 7.8. It was suggested that high school and middle school students, who are required to complete community service hours, might be able to volunteer to assist with the Carnival.

8. *Other Business:*

- 8.1. *Assemblies.* Liz Falcone advised that she received a report from Joyce Carr regarding the Assemblies Program, but omitted to bring it. It will be added to the minutes as an addendum.
- 8.2. *BoxTops:* trickling in except for Mrs. Matthews’ class which is very motivated – with 41% participation to date. Class with highest participation rate as at Dec 12 will win a Pizza Party. Pam will send a reminder email for Room Parents. It was also suggested she email teachers to jog their memories. A check for \$458 will arrive in January from General Mills. Credits from Campbell’s Soup Labels were used to get Hockey equipment and baseball bats for PE department. It was suggested that providing recipes that use BoxTop products might promote collection. Possibly a link from the PTA web site to recipes would be useful. Pam was advised to request a special teacher rate for the pizza party.

- 8.3. It was suggested to put a copy of our 501(3)(c) verification letter on the PTA site.
- 8.4. We will be advised in February 2009 if the grant application submitted to Target is successful.
- 8.5. Renee Gillanshah advised, on behalf of Leslie Sogandares, that after school activity enrollment forms would go home the first week after winter vacation. These activities will begin the end of January and the first week of February. The after school clubs will consist of two sessions of Basketball, Lego club, Nature club, and Mad Science. Tennis will not be offered and Creative Kids will be dropped due to low enrollment. Leslie would be interested in hearing about new ideas or requests for after school clubs.
- 8.6. Scott Logan suggested GEMS club (Girls Excelling at Math and Science). He advised that Mrs. Nelson and Dianne Rose are interested in offering a GEMS club. It hosts female engineers/scientists who give a talk then offer relevant hands on activities. The club meets once a month. As there are not so many upper grade kids in after school programs, this may complement our program. Each March there is a GEMS conference at Dogwood ES sponsored by Lockheed Martin. It draws exclusively on 5th-6th grade female students. Mr Logan would like to send 30 girls from 5th and 6th grade to the conference.
- 8.7. Suzanne White expressed thanks and congratulations to the Board for its efforts to date.

Meeting closed at 8:09pm.

Addendum Regarding Assemblies (Joyce Carr)

We have confirmed that Theatre IV will come on 2/20/09 to perform Rumpelstiltskin for grades K-3.

We are also working to schedule the following:

- Nutcracker in a Nutshell by the Fairfax Ballet (if they have a December date) for everyone
- A writing workshop for grades 4-6
- A medieval knight for grade 5
- Megan Hicks, a storyteller, for Invisible Spies - about the importance of codes and espionage in the Civil War for 4-6

So far this year, we have had these assemblies:

- September - Mad Science presented during lunch for free
- October - Gary Lloyd - Pumpkin Tales - grades K-3
- November - Laura Nielson - Writing Workshop - grades 1-3